

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/855,863

Applicant(s)

GEISELHART, REINHOLD

Examiner

Art Unit

Kuen S. Lu

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/26/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 33-44 (renumbered to 1-12).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date #1, May 24, 2005.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Patent Application filed on May 14, 2001 and amendments filed on May 26, 2005. The amendments were considered.
2. Claims 33-44 are currently pending in the Application.

Reason for Allowable

3. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Office Action for Final Rejection of March 2, 2005, 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 102, rejections was based on primary reference Ijsbrand Jan Aalbersberg (U.S. Patent 6,094,648, "USER INTERFACE FOR DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL", July 25, 2000, hereafter "Aalbersberg"), and secondary references of Giovanni Marchisio (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0156763, October 24, 2002, "EXTENDED FUNCTIONALITY FOR AN INVERSE INFERENCE ENGINE BASED WEB SEARCH", hereafter "Marchisio"), Ronald Fagin et al. (U.S. Patent 6,014,664, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INCORPORATING WEIGHTS INTO DATA COMBINATIONAL RULES", January 11, 2000, hereafter "Fagin") and Hinrich Schuetze (U.S. Patent 6,014,664, "DOCUMENT INFORMATION RETRIEVAL USING GLOBAL WORD CO-OCCURRENCE PATTERNS", October 7, 1997, hereafter "Schuetze").

During the telephone interview conducted on May 24, 2005, the Applicant argued the teaching of references of Aalbersberg, Schutze, Mamhisio and Fagi or their combined fail to provide teaching or suggestion of the element of "weighting of the presented context Information by the user through user input" or ranking of the documents based on at least in part of the "user-weighted context information". The Applicant also

proposed a new set of claims 33-44 to further narrow and integrate the scope of subject matter as claimed invention.

Based on further reviewing the above consideration and an update search conducted as described below, the Amendment filed on May 26, 2005, is hereby considered and accepted.

An search for the prior arts on EAST database has been recently conducted to further extend and update the scope the searches conducted during the past two years on domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE, etc). The prior arts searched and investigated in domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE, etc) do not fairly teach or suggest the teaching of the following limitations:

"Receiving user preferences regarding each of said ranking criteria associated with each of said plurality of context information; and

Re-ranking said set of ranking documents utilizing a context ranking formula based on said absolute ranking value and said user preferences regarding each of said associated ranking criteria" of each of the following independent Claims 33, 37 and 41.

Claims 34-36, 38-40 and 42-44 are dependent on the Claims 33, 37 and 41, respectively, and also distinct from the prior arts for the same reason.

After a search and a thorough examination of the present Application and in light of the prior arts, Claims 33-44 are allowed.

Conclusions

4. Any comments considered necessary by Applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

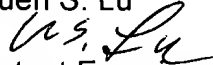
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Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kuen S. Lu

Patent Examiner

July 8, 2005


Mohammad Ali

Primary Examiner

July 8, 2005